

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

By way of overview, claims 1-38 are currently pending. Of these pending claims:

- a) Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 24 and 25 remain in their original form;
- b) Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-23 are currently amended; and
- c) Claims 26-38 are newly added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;
storing information about the candidate program in a first part of a time-dependent
buffer arrangement, to provide candidate information;
 recording ~~content~~ program information associated with the selected candidate
 program, to provide recorded program information; and
storing the recorded program information in a second part of the time-dependent
buffer arrangement, wherein the candidate information and the recorded program
information define program-related information;
wherein the program-related information advances through the time-dependent
buffer arrangement in the manner of a shift register, from the first part to the second part
of the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

1 ~~selectively identifying the recorded content within a time-dependent buffer~~
2 ~~arrangement.~~

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Con* 2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the
6 automatically selecting of the candidate program further includes:

7 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection
8 criteria to identify the candidate program; ~~and~~

9 ~~identifying the selected candidate program within the time-dependent buffer~~
10 ~~arrangement.~~

11 3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:
12 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of users.

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14 4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:
15 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded ~~content~~ program
16 information; and

17 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user
18 activities.

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20 5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:
21 recording a plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information corresponding
22 to respective candidate programs within the time-dependent buffer arrangement, wherein
23 the plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information is in an initial time-ordered
24 sequence; and
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1 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of the
2 recorded ~~content~~ program information to produce a modified time-ordered sequence
3 within the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

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6 6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial
7 time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a comparison of the ~~content~~
8 recorded program information with at least a portion of the definable user selection
9 criteria.

10 7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial time-ordered
11 sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

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13 8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
14 selectively ~~identifying~~ storing the recorded ~~content~~ program information within
15 the time-dependent buffer arrangement ~~with~~ in a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

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17 9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-
18 executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

19 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;
20 storing information about the candidate program in a first part of a time-
21 dependent buffer arrangement, to provide candidate information;

22 recording ~~content~~ program information associated with the selected candidate
23 program, to provide recorded program information; and
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1 storing the recorded program information in a second part of the time-dependent
 2 buffer arrangement, wherein the candidate information and the recorded program
 3 information define program-related information;

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4 wherein the program-related information advances through the time-dependent
 5 buffer arrangement in the manner of a shift register, from the first part to the second part
 6 of the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

7 ~~selectively identifying the recorded content within a time dependent buffer~~
 8 ~~arrangement.~~

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 10 10. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,
 11 wherein the automatically selecting of the candidate program further includes:

12 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection
 13 criteria to identify the candidate program; ~~and~~

14 ~~identifying the selected candidate program within the time dependent buffer~~
 15 ~~arrangement.~~

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 17 11. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further
 18 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

19 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of users.

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 21 12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,
 22 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

23 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded ~~content~~ program
 24 information; and

1 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user
2 activities.

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4 13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,
5 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

6 recording a plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information corresponding
7 to respective candidate programs within the time-dependent buffer arrangement, wherein
8 the plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information is in an initial time-ordered
9 sequence; and

10 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of the
11 recorded ~~content~~ program information to produce a modified time-ordered sequence
12 within the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

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14 14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13,
15 wherein the initial time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a
16 comparison of the ~~content~~ recorded program information with at least a portion of the
17 definable user selection criteria.

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19 15. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the
20 initial time-ordered sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

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22 16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,
23 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:
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1 selectively ~~identifying~~ storing the recorded ~~content~~ program information within
 2 the time-dependent buffer arrangement ~~with~~ in a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

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 5 17. (Currently Amended) An arrangement comprising:

6 an intelligent content agent configured to automatically select a candidate
 7 program to record;

8 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the intelligent
 9 content agent and configurable to:

10 receive and store information about the candidate program in a first part of
 11 the time-dependent buffer mechanism, to provide candidate information; and

12 receive and ~~record~~ store a ~~signal-carrying~~ content program information
 13 associated with the selected candidate program in a second part of the time-
 14 dependent buffer mechanism, wherein the candidate information and the recorded
 15 program information define program-related information,

16 wherein the arrangement is configured to advance the program-related
 17 information through the time-dependent buffer in the manner of a shift register, from the
 18 first part to the second part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

19 18. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the
 20 intelligent content agent is further configured to scan an electronic program guide (EPG)
 21 based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate program, ~~and identify~~
 22 ~~the selected candidate program within the time-dependent buffer arrangement~~
 23 mechanism.

1 19. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the intelligent
2 content agent is further configured to maintain definable user selection criteria for each
3 one of a plurality of users.

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5 20. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, further
6 comprising a bubbling agent operatively associated with the intelligent content agent and
7 the time-dependent content buffer mechanism, and configured to monitor user activities
8 associated with the recorded ~~content~~ program information, and modify the definable user
9 selection criteria based on the monitored user activities.

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11 21. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the
12 time-dependent content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

13 record, in an initial time-ordered sequence, a plurality of ~~signals-carrying-content~~
14 recorded program information associated with a plurality of selected candidate programs;
15 and

16 respond to user input by selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence
17 to produce a modified time-ordered sequence.

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19 22. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the
20 time-dependent content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

21 record, in an initial time-ordered sequence, a plurality of ~~signals-carrying-content~~
22 recorded program information associated with a plurality of selected candidate programs;
23 and

1 wherein, the intelligent content agent is further configured to automatically
2 rearrange the initial time-ordered sequence based on a comparison of the ~~content~~
3 recorded program information with at least a portion of the definable user selection
4 criteria to produce a modified time-ordered sequence.

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23. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, further
7 comprising a permanent storage buffer ~~arrangement~~ mechanism operatively associated
8 with the time-dependent content buffer mechanism, and wherein the time-dependent
9 content buffer mechanism is further configured to selectively move the recorded content
10 within the time-dependent buffer ~~arrangement~~ mechanism to the permanent storage
11 buffer ~~arrangement~~ mechanism.

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13 24. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the intelligent
14 content agent is further configured to examine closed caption data during recording of the
15 candidate program to determine if the candidate program significantly matches a specific
16 user criteria.

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18 25. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the time-dependent
19 content buffer mechanism is further configured to automatically provide a selectively
20 arranged sequence of recorded candidate programs.

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22 26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
23 playing the candidate program in the second part of the time-dependent buffer
24 arrangement, to provide previously played program information; and
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1 storing the previously played program information in a third part of the time-
2 dependent buffer arrangement.

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4 27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the user activities pertain to
5 a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in the time-dependent buffer
6 arrangement.
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8 28. (New) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the modified time-ordered
9 sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least some recorded
10 program information in front of other recorded program information.

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12 29. (New) A method comprising:
13 automatically selecting a candidate program to record by scanning an electronic
14 program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate
15 program;

16 recording program information associated with the selected candidate program, to
17 provide recorded program information; and

18 storing the recorded program information in a time-dependent buffer arrangement,
19 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes
20 recorded program information stored in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

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22 30. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, further
23 comprising computer-executable instructions for:
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1 playing the candidate program in the second part of the time-dependent buffer
2 arrangement, to provide previously played program information; and

3 storing the previously played program information in a third part of the time-
4 dependent buffer arrangement.

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7 31. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 12, wherein the
8 user activities pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in
9 the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

10 32. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the
11 modified time-ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving
12 at least some recorded program information in front of other recorded program
13 information.

14
15 33. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions
16 for performing steps comprising:

17 automatically selecting a candidate program to record by scanning an electronic
18 program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate
19 program;

20 recording program information associated with the selected candidate program, to
21 provide recorded program information; and

22 storing the recorded program information in a time-dependent buffer arrangement,
23 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes
24 recorded program information stored in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.
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2 34. (New) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the arrangement is
3 configured to play the candidate program in the second part of the time-dependent buffer
4 mechanism, to provide previously played program information, and the time-dependent
5 buffer mechanism is further configured to store the previously played program
6 information in a third part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism.
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8 35. (New) The arrangement as recited in Claim 20, wherein the user activities
9 pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in the time-
10 dependent buffer mechanism.
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12 36. (New) The arrangement as recited Claim 21, wherein the modified time-
13 ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least some
14 recorded program information in front of other recorded program information.
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16 37. (New) The arrangement as recited Claim 22, wherein the modified time-
17 ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least some
18 recorded program information in front of other recorded program information.
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20 38. (New) An arrangement comprising:
21 an agent configured to automatically select a candidate program to record by
22 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to
23 identify the candidate program; and
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1 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the agent and
2 configurable to receive and store program information associated with the selected
3 candidate program, to provide recorded program information,

4 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes
5 program information stored in the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

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